

# Energy Efficiency Investment Fund

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2023  
July 2022 – June 2023





## What is EEIF?

The Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF) is a state grant and loan program administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). EEIF helps Delaware businesses, local governments, and nonprofit organizations pay for energy efficiency upgrades that lower energy use and costs.

EEIF was established in 2011 when Title 29 §8030 and Title 30 §5502 of the Delaware Code were amended, allocating the first \$5 million of the Public Utility Tax (PUT) to the EEIF program.

Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs. Lower energy use reduces pollution, combats climate change, creates jobs and promotes local economic development.

EEIF projects run from basic to highly complex. The most common types of EEIF applications include energy assessments, LED lighting installations, building envelope improvements, mechanical equipment replacements, and implementation of combined heat and power (CHP) equipment.

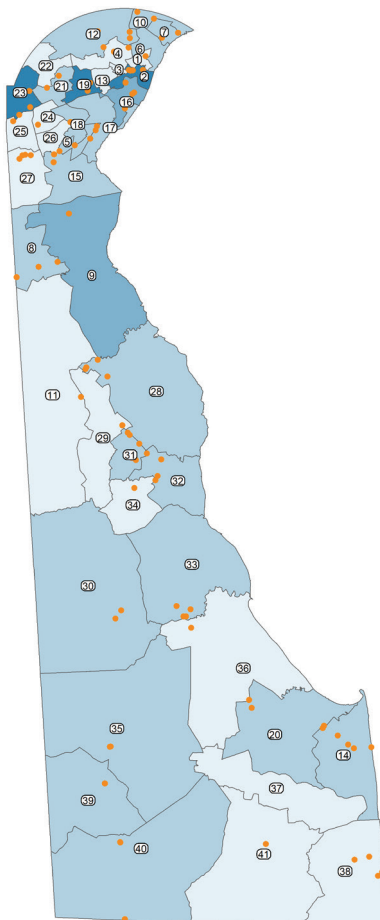
## Who does EEIF serve?

Since its inception, EEIF has been proud to serve every eligible Delawarean that pays into the Public Utility Tax, regardless of the facility size. However, we recognize that the repercussions of the pandemic disproportionately affected some small businesses. So, EEIF has made great strides to continue to focus on assisting small businesses. In Fiscal Year 2023, EEIF initiated a movement to specifically direct resources to small businesses. As a result, EEIF now reserves 20% of its overall budget for small businesses.

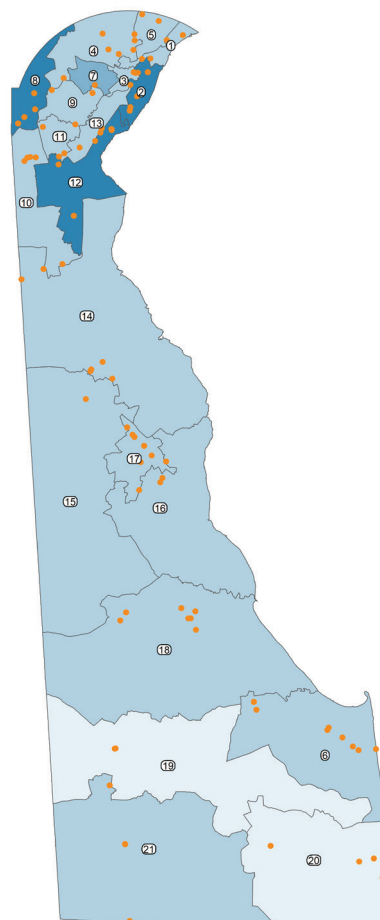


**37%** of EEIF projects self-reported as being a small business.

Starting in FY24, applicants will go through two layers of internal review to verify if they are a small business. To qualify, the project site must not exceed a threshold of 10,000 kWh usage per month and cannot be a national chain.



HOUSE DISTRICTS



SENATE DISTRICTS

### SUPPORT BY LOCATION

- PROJECT SITE
- LESS THAN \$10,000
- \$10,000 – \$100,000
- \$100,001 – \$250,000
- \$250,001 – \$500,000

## EEIF Fiscal Year 2023 Metrics

EEIF has provided rebates and technical assistance through...



**129 individual projects supported\***



**24,126,933 kWh avoided annually\*\***



**15,441 MMBtu avoided annually\*\*\***



**\$3,494,040 in rebates pledged**



**\$2,953,137 in annual energy cost savings**

\* Completed and in progress

\*\* Kilowatt hours

\*\*\* Million British thermal units

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saved from FY2023 EEIF projects: **11,125 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>**. This is the same as



**2,478**

Gasoline-powered passenger  
vehicles driven for one year

or



**2,117**

Homes' energy use  
for one year

or



**1,251,777**

Gallons of gasoline  
consumed

## What has EEIF Accomplished?

- Added new opportunities for rebates by incentivizing a broader spectrum of energy efficiency projects, such as:
  - Creating an Appliance & Food Services Prescriptive Pathway that encourages restaurants and other food serving businesses to be more energy efficient
  - Making energy efficiency projects eligible to new construction in order to establish efficiency on the outset of a newly established business
  - Expanding the list of prescriptive measures available so that businesses may consider more ways in which they can reduce their energy use
- Implemented updates to the application portal making the process more streamlined for applicants
- Started the EEIF participating contractor network allowing applicants to find professionals who can develop and complete their projects
- Updated the DNREC EEIF webpage and supporting documents to make the process of finding information quicker and easier for potential applicants, as well as participating contractors trying to learn more about the program
- Sent quarterly EEIF newsletters of programmatic updates to past and prospective applicants in order to encourage new energy projects as part of the EEIF outreach campaign
- Attended "Open For Business" events to support Delaware entrepreneurs through a new partnership with the New Castle and Kent County Chambers of Commerce; Delaware Division of Small Business; Delaware Small Business Development Center; and Kent Economic Partnership
- Conducted outreach focused on national chains, big-box stores, car dealerships, hotels, assisted living facilities, and schools



## What are people saying about EEIF?



### Ursuline Academy, Wilmington

*This just makes good sense for our School, Community and Society in general. Every dollar that can be directed to the education of a child rather than directed to the cost of operating the facility is a win in my book.*

George Schaab  
Assistant Director of Operations

#### Project Summary

- Number of lamps installed: 571
- EEIF Grant: \$12,617
- Annual energy savings: 233,631 kWh

*The EEIF application was very straightforward. The EEIF Implementation team assisted us with any questions and the payment registration making it a smooth process.*

— Energy Management Collaborative (EMC), LLC

**Projects Supported:** Link Logistics facilities, Marshalls

**Rebates Pledged:** \$14,840

**Annual Energy Savings:** 145,668 kWh

*The EEIF program has been a great value to our clients enabling them to make much needed upgrades to their facilities. DNREC's continued guidance through the application process has led to a lot of successes and we look forward to continuing to work with them.*

— Seiberlich Trane Energy Services

**Projects Supported:** City of Newark, NCCVT Delcastle Tech HS, NCCVT Howard HS, NCCVT St Georges Tech HS, Atlantic Sands Hotel, Grand Opera House

**Rebates Pledged:** \$1,710,607

**Annual Energy Savings:** 3,883,251 kWh

*We are so happy with how well the EEIF program is running and with the EEIF Implementation team coming on board. We are looking at more projects in Delaware.*

— American Energy Corp.

**Projects Supported:** Northeastern Supply Dover, Alliance Material Handling, Pure Foods, Bear Express Car Wash, Applied Control Engineering

**Rebates Pledged:** \$50,653

**Annual Energy Savings:** 163,427 kWh

## What's next for EEIF?

- Implement a new project cap increase from 30% to 60% to better provide more extensive cost coverage for businesses to support their energy efficiency upgrades
- Continue outreach efforts to involve more small business, minority-, women- and veteran-owned customers and contractors
- Provide online webinars for customers and contractors who want to learn more about how they can participate in the EEIF program
- Create a Strategic Energy Management Plan through the development of cohorts that focus on behavioral energy efficiency measures of entities in non-residential facilities via EEIF pathways



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